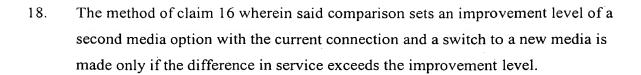
## Claims:

- 1. A method of optimizing a communication connection by providing a desktop with data for use in route selection.
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes a selection of available media for routing said communication connection.
- 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said data includes optimizing factors relating to each available media.
- 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said desktop is a computer associated with a communications terminal at a source end of said communication connection.
- 5. A method of selectively routing communication connections through diverse media comprising: providing a computer associated with a first end system; providing a lookup table in said computer, said lookup table storing a selection of media options for routing a communication connection to a second end system, said lookup table further including optimization factors and connection protocols for each media option; and accessing said lookup table to select a media for routing said connection based on said optimization factors.
- 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said diverse media is selected from the group consisting of a Wide Area Network (WAN), Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), Telephone over Cable, Virtual Private Network (VPN), Satellite and Wireless networks.
- 7. The method of claim 5 wherein said first and second end systems comprise telephone terminals.
- 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said communication is voice communication.

- The method of claim 5 wherein said first and second end systems include video terminals.
- 10. The method of claim 5 wherein said lookup table includes dynamic and static optimization factors associated with each media option.
- 11. The method as defined in claim 10 wherein said optimization factors are selected from the group consisting of tariffs, expense, latency, bandwidth and network load.
- 12. The method of claim 5 further including the step of providing means to monitor a connection and to reroute the connection in the event another one of the media options can provide a better service.
- 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said means monitors the connection at a set time after a connection has been set up.
- 14. The method of claim 12 wherein said means monitors the connection on a periodic basis.
- 15. The method of claim 11 wherein said connection is tested by sending a media file to a second end system and obtaining a comparison of the present connection with characteristics of said media file.
- 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said end systems are for voice communication and said media file is an audio clip.
- 17. The method of claim 15 wherein said end systems are for video communication and said media file is a video clip.



- 19. The method of claim 5 wherein said lookup table identifies a selected media for routing a connection based on the identity of the second end system.
- 20. A system for optimizing a communication connection between communication terminals, said system having a desktop associated with one terminal for storing route selection information.
- 21. A system as defined in claim 20 wherein said route selection information includes a selection of communication media available for routing said connection.
- 22. A system as defined in claim 20 wherein said route selection information includes optimization factors relating to each available communication media.
- 23. A system as defined in claim 21 wherein said route selection information is stored in lookup tables in said desktop.
- 24. A system for selectively routing communication connections between first and second end systems through diverse media comprising: computing means associated with said first end system; a look up table in said computing means, said lookup table storing a list of media options available for routing a communication connection from said first end system to said second end system and optimization factors and connection protocols for each listed media option; and accessing means to access said look up table to select one of said media options for routing a connection based on said optimization factors.

- 25. A system as defined in claim 24 wherein said diverse media includes a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), a Wide Area Network (WAN), a Virtual Private Network (VPN) and a satellite transmission network.
- A system as defined in claim 24 wherein said accessing means includes means to reroute a connection after initiation if a new connection better matching a users preferences becomes available.
- 27. A system as defined in claim 22 wherein said route selection information is stored in lookup tables in said desktop.